

and blotched nearly over the whole surface with roundish markings of umber and slate colour. Dimensions in inches, 1.34 x 0.88.

PTILOPUS SWAINSONI, Gould (Red-crowned Fruit Pigeon).

During my visit to the "Big Scrub," Richmond River, 1891, I saw many of these beautiful little pigeons, and although I sought diligently for a nest, as in the case of the Rifle Bird, I returned home without it. However, I am again indebted to Mr. W. T. Bailey for sending a nest and egg of the Fruit Pigeon after me. They were taken with some considerable risk and difficulty at a height of about fifty feet from the ground in a Buyong sapling, by Mr. Isaac Foster. Date, 31st November, 1896.

Nest.—A very slight platform, 4 or 5 inches across, composed of dry twigs placed in a slender horizontal fork. The contents may be easily seen through the nest from beneath.

Egg.—Oval in shape, sharply nipped off at one end; texture of shell fine and slightly lustrous; colour white. Dimensions in inches, 1.16 x 0.81.

MEGALOPREPIA MAGNIFICA, Temminck (Purple-breasted Fruit Pigeon).

I am not sure that there is any detailed description given of the nest and egg of this truly magnificent pigeon.

During my visit to the "Big Scrub," New South Wales, November, 1891, a nest of the species was found building, but the operation of scrub-falling in the vicinity caused the birds to desert.

The nest and egg under notice were forwarded to me by Mr. W. T. Bailey, Richmond River. They were taken by Mr. T. Foster on the 2nd February in a "black myrtle," at a height of about 15 feet from the ground.

Nest.—Substantial for a pigeon, slightly concave, almost entirely composed of wire-like tendrils of climbing plants upon a foundation of a few coarse sticks. Dimensions, about 6 inches across by 2½ deep.

Egg.—Elongated in form and considerably pointed towards the smaller end. Surface of the shell finely granulated; colour white. Dimensions in inches, 1.77 x 1.05. Small, compared with the size of the bird, and, as in the case of most fruit-eating pigeons, a single egg only is laid.

A NEW BUTTERFLY, *LYCÆNA CYRILUS*, N. SP.

BY E. ANDERSON AND F. P. SPRY.

THE announcement of a supposed new species among the "blues" of Victoria was made at the February meeting of the Field Naturalists' Club of Victoria (*Victorian Naturalist*, vol. xiii.,

p. 138). As it does not appear to have been previously named, we have decided to name it *Lycæna cyrilus*, and append the following description, with figures (life size), which will enable collectors to identify it and record its geographical distribution.



Male.



Female.



MALE.—Upperside.—Uniform shining brown, hind margins black, fringes pale. Posterior wings with two black spots at anal angle, slightly crescentic and separated from black marginal line by a pale blue streak.

Underside.—Pale brown, with a series of spots margined inwardly with black, outwardly by pale brown or whitish; two black spots at anal angle of posterior wing, having an orange blotch above and separated from the margin by a white streak, corresponding to the blue streak on the upper side.

FEMALE.—Upperside.—Costa and marginal area smoky black, a darker black spot at end of cell, very distinct in some specimens, but hardly discernible in others; basal area dark blue. Black marginal line and pale fringe. Posterior wings with similar colouration to anterior, but with two deep black crescentic spots at anal angle, outlined with blue, and indications more or less faint of a series of smaller crescentic markings along hind margin.

Underside.—As in male, but spots usually larger and better defined.

The markings on the underside are so variable that no two specimens seem alike; in the males, especially, they vary from a few scattered black dots in light outlines to large spots almost coalescing into bands. As a means of identification they are almost useless.

This species was apparently first obtained in Victoria some years ago by Mr. J. Kershaw, who had in his collection a female specimen taken at Moe.

In December, 1896, we had the good fortune to procure a

series of both sexes, near Cranbourne, and we have lately heard from Sydney that a male specimen was captured on the wing during January, 1895, near Wentworth Falls, in the Blue Mountains, by Mr. G. A. Waterhouse, Mr. G. Lyell, jun., having seen and identified the insect.

A BOTANICAL PEEP INTO THE ROCKY POOLS OF SORRENTO AND QUEENSLIFF.

BY HENRY THOS. TISDALL.

(Read before Field Naturalists' Club of Victoria, 12th April, 1897.)

I WISH to draw the attention of some of our members to a branch of study which opens a wide field of investigation to students of Nature—I mean the Algæ of Victoria. Mr. Harvey, in his magnificent work on Australian Algæ, has delineated and described a great number of our seaweeds. The late Mr. H. Watts, who was an active member of our Club, took a great interest in our seaweeds, and the specimens which he presented to the Botanical Museum are a great help to a student. The late Baron Mueller's list of Algæ in the 11th vol. of his "Fragmenta" is also a great boon. Since that list was published, owing to the indefatigable exertions of the late Mr. Bracebridge Wilson, of Geelong, a great increase has been made in the known seaweeds of Victoria. But I am quite sure, from the experience I have had during my visits to Flinders, Sorrento, and Ocean Grove, that there is still plenty of scope for further investigation and a good chance for members who would undertake it to find many of these plants which are, if not quite new to science, still unrecorded as being found in Victoria.

As the study of Algæ is not common, I propose to preface my remarks by giving a brief outline of the structure and habit of these peculiar plants. Seaweeds are entirely composed of tiny structures called cells; these are generally quite microscopic, and consist of a bag or sac containing protoplasm, a nucleus, &c. There are seaweeds so minute that they are entirely composed of a single cell. With a good microscope we may find hundreds of these on almost any seaweed we pick up; these are termed unicellular. Again, we may find a number of these cells fastened together by their ends only, like a string of beads; these are said to be cell filaments. If these filaments are also fastened sideways to each other so as to form a thin sheet they are called cell plates; and lastly, if a number of these plates be placed one over another they are termed cell masses. Thus, according to structure, we may divide seaweeds into "unicellular," "cell filaments," "cell plates," and "cell masses." In addition to this cell structure most land plants are provided with long tubes or vessels for conveying nourishment to their various parts, but these vessels are